

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A safety shield comprising:

a housing;

a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis; and

a clip disposed within the housing, the clip defining a first cavity dimensioned for movement of to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, the first cavity being movable in response to movement of the clip from a first position to a second position between a movable orientation in which the piercing member can slide through the first cavity and a binding orientation in which a portion of the clip defining the first cavity engages the piercing member to prevent movement of the piercing member through the first cavity;

the clip including a first leg that defines a second cavity dimensioned for movement of to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough and a distal part being configured to engage a medical device externally of the housing when the clip is in the first position to secure the medical device to the housing, the clip further including a second leg having a bearing surface that engages the piercing member;

wherein the first leg and the second leg are biased for convergent movement such that, in the second position, the first cavity is disposed in the binding orientation and the distal part of the first leg disengages the medical device[.] and wherein the clip is movable from the first position

to the second position in response to withdrawal of the piercing member from the second cavity.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first cavity is rotatable relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member in response to movement of the clip from the first position to the second position.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first cavity defines a binding surface that engages the piercing member in the binding orientation clip is resilient such that the first and second legs are biased for convergent movement.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the clip further includes a plate that defines the first cavity and is oriented substantially perpendicular to the first and second legs.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first leg has a proximal part that is oriented substantially perpendicular parallel to the transverse longitudinal axis of the piercing member when the first cavity is in the movable orientation.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the second leg has a proximal part that is oriented substantially perpendicular parallel to the transverse longitudinal axis of the piercing member when the first cavity is in the movable orientation.

Claim 7 (Original): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes a transverse portion that defines the second cavity.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes an arm configured to releasably retain the secure a medical device to the housing.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim [9] 1, wherein the housing is movable in relation to the piercing member between a retracted position whereby wherein the distal end of the piercing member is exposed and an extended position whereby wherein the housing encloses the distal end of the piercing member.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim [9] 1, wherein the housing is substantially transparent.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim [9] 1, wherein the housing includes a flash chamber.

Claim 14 (Original): A safety shield as recited in Claim 1, wherein the medical device includes a catheter.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A safety shield comprising:

a piercing member having a proximal end[,] and a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis;

a housing having an outer surface; and

a clip including a plate oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member and defining a first cavity dimensioned ~~for movement of~~ to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough, the first cavity of the plate being rotatable, relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, between a sliding orientation and a binding orientation whereby a surface of the plate that defines the first cavity engages the piercing member to prevent slidable movement of the piercing member thereof therethrough,

the clip including a first leg extending from the plate [and] , the first leg having a

proximal part and a distal part, the distal part defining a second cavity dimensioned for movement of to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough and being configured to engage a medical device externally of the housing to secure the medical device to the housing, the clip including a second leg that extends from the plate and has a proximal part and a distal part, the distal part of the second leg including a bearing surface that engages the piercing member;

wherein the first and second legs are resiliently biased for convergent movement such that upon withdrawal of the piercing member from the second cavity, the first and second legs of the clip converge to move the first cavity is disposed in the to its binding orientation and to move the distal part of the first leg to a position to disengage[s] the clip from the medical device.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 15, wherein the piercing member is disposed within the second cavity of the first leg to prevent convergent movement of the legs.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 15, wherein the housing is movable in relation to the piercing member between a retracted position whereby wherein the distal end of the piercing member is exposed and an extended position whereby wherein the distal end of the piercing member is enclosed within the housing.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A safety shield as recited in Claim 15, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes an arm being configured to releasably retain the medical device [with] to the outer surface of the housing.

Claim 19 (Original): A safety shield as recited in Claim 15, wherein the bearing surface of the second leg engages the piercing member in the binding orientation to prevent movement of

the piercing member.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A medical clip adapted for use with a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis, the clip comprising:

a first cavity dimensioned ~~for movement of~~ to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, between a movable orientation and a binding orientation;

a first leg ~~that defines~~ defining a distal part extending therefrom and a second cavity, the second cavity being ~~disposed distal to the first cavity and dimensioned for movement of~~ to slidably receive the piercing member therethrough and the distal part having a hook portion configured to engage an external surface of a medical device; and

a second leg having a surface configured to engage the piercing member, wherein the first and the second legs of the clip are relative to the first and second legs, biased for convergent movement such that when the first leg and second leg of the clip converge, the first cavity is disposed in the binding orientation upon movement of the piercing member out of the second cavity, wherein when the piercing member is positioned through the first and

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second cavities, the piercing member prevents the first and second legs from converging and wherein the first and second legs converge upon withdrawal of the piercing member from the second cavity.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A medical clip as recited in Claim 27, wherein the clip further includes a plate having the first leg and the second leg extending therefrom, the plate defining the first cavity.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A medical clip as recited in Claim 27, wherein the first cavity defines a binding surface that engages the piercing member in the binding orientation to prevent movement of the piercing member.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A medical clip as recited in Claim 29, wherein the binding surface has a flared configuration that facilitates movement of the piercing member in the movable orientation and engages the piercing member to prevent movement of the piercing member in the binding orientation.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): A medical clip as recited in Claim 27, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes a transverse portion that defines the second cavity.

Claim 32-37 (canceled).

Claim 38 (New) A safety needle apparatus comprising:
a housing adapted to receive a piercing member;
a resilient clip disposed within the housing, the clip having a body defining a first aperture dimensioned to slidably receive the piercing member, a first leg defining a second aperture spaced from the first aperture dimensioned to slidably receive the piercing member, and a second leg defining a bearing surface for engaging the piercing member, the first leg of the clip

further including a hook portion; and

a catheter having an enlarged proximal portion and dimensioned to slidably receive the piercing member;

wherein when the piercing member is received within the first and second apertures, the resilient clip is maintained in a first configuration in which the hook portion of the clip is positioned to engage an external surface of the enlarged proximal portion of the catheter externally of the housing to fasten the catheter to the housing, and wherein when the piercing member is withdrawn from one of the first and second apertures, the first and second legs of the resilient clip converge towards a second configuration in which the hook portion moves to a position to facilitate separation of the catheter from the housing.

Claim 39 (New): A safety shield comprising:

a housing;

a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis;

a clip disposed within the housing, the clip defining a first cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, the first cavity being movable between a movable orientation and a binding orientation;

the clip including a first leg that defines a second cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and a distal part being configured to engage a medical device to releasably retain the medical device to the housing, the clip further including a second leg having a bearing surface that engages the piercing member;

wherein the first leg and the second leg are biased for convergent movement from a first

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position to a second position such that the first cavity is disposed in the binding orientation and the distal part of the first leg disengages from the medical device.